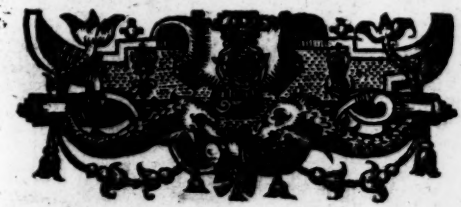
HIS MAIESTIES COMMISSION, AND FVRTHER DECLARATION:

Concerning the reparation of Saint Pauls Church.



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M.DC.XXXIII.

HIS MAIESTIES COMMISSION.

CHARLES *by the grace of God King of* England, Scotland, France, *and* Ireland, *Defender of the Faith, &c. To, &c.*

Whereas *the Cathedrall Church of S.* Paul, *scituate in Our Citie of* London, *famous for magnificent*

Structure, and an Ornament to that Citie, is growne into much decay, occasioned partly, for that so much of the possessions of that Church haue come into lay hands, that the residue sufficed not to the continuall Charge required in the reparation of so great and costly a Fabricke, and affording competent maintenance for those that attended Diuine Offices there, and especially by wasting (which length of time doth produce) many hundred of yeeres hauing passed since that Church was erected: And howsoeuer the decayes haue happened, yet since in the times of superstition and ignorance,

rance, men were willing (for the ſeruice of GOD) to part with ſo much of their ſubſtance, as neceſſarily was ſpent in ſuch a magnificent Erection:

It cannot bee without ſcandall to theſe times, in which GOD hath beene pleaſed to guide the Church of England in the true wayes of his Worſhip, if that beautifull Fabricke ſhould be ſuffered to fall to the ground, which is feared, if there bee not a timely care of repaire thereof.

And it being an vndoubted truth, that although the care and ouerſight of the Erection of that Church were vndertaken by a few, yet the expence

procee

proceeded from the charitable aides of a great number of people; It will be neceſſary that the ſame courſe bee purſued in the repaire thereof, to preuent the finall decay of the ſame:

Which Wee hauing taken into Our Princely conſideration, the tenth day of April, *in the ſeuenth yeere of Our Raigne, directed Our Commiſſion vnder Our great Seale of* England, *to the Lord Maior of Our City of* London, *to the Lord Archbiſhop of* Canterbury, *the Lord Keeper of Our great Seale of* England, *and to ſundry other Lords Spirituall and Temporall of Our Priuie Councell,*

Counſell, and to diuers others; wherein prouiſion is made, aſwell for preſeruation of ſuch Money as ſhall be collected for that worke, in the Chamber of Our City of London, *and for the Iſſuing and Imployment of it vpon repaire of that Fabricke, and for the keeping of true accounts of Moneys receiued and Iſſued for that occaſion, as alſo for ſurueying of the Decayes, diſcouery of the pious gifts made or limited for the maintenance and reparation of that Church, and to ſet downe Orders for the accompliſhment of the repaire of the ſame.*

Sithence which time, Wee haue giuen order for payment of a great ſummie of money out of Our owne Treaſure, to bee imployed in that worke: And ſundry of Our Nobility and others of the Clergy and of the Layety weldiſpoſed, and affecting the continuance of that goodly Monument, haue liberally contributed diuers other ſummes in preſent, and haue charged themſelues to make payment of diuers other ſummes of money at times to come, for the ſupply of that charge.

Yet finding that without further aides throughout all the parts of this Our

Our Realme, ſo great a worke would not be finiſhed; Wee reſolued to commend this Charitable and Pious worke, to all Our louing Subiects, in and through all the Counties, Cities and Places of this Our Realme of England *and Dominion of* Wales, *(aſwell within Liberties as without.)*

And for that purpoſe Wee did award ſeuerall Commiſſions into all the ſaid Counties, Cities and Places of this Our Realme of England, *and Dominion of* Wales, *of the like tenor and effect with theſe preſents; which Our Commiſſions haue*

not had ſo full an Execution, but that in moſt of the Counties into which they haue iſſued, ſome parts of the Counties, and ſome perſons of ability and quality, willing to further ſo Pious a worke, either by reaſon of their abſence out of the Countrey vpon their neceſſary occaſions, when the ſaid Commiſſions were in executing, or otherwiſe haue not beene dealt with for their voluntary free contribution to this ſo good a worke.

And beſides as we are informed, there are many who haue formerly giuen thereunto, haue profeſſ d themſelues willing to inlarge themſelues in

a more free and liberall manner, when they ſhall ſee the worke really begun.

We haue therefore thought good to renew and continue Our ſaid Commiſſions, to the intent that Our Commiſſioners might proceede therein, with all ſuch perſons of ability that are or ſhall bee reſident in any Parts or Places in which Our former Commiſſions, vpon any occaſion whatſoeuer, haue not beene executed; and with all ſuch perſons of ability as being abſent out of the Countrey, or for any o-

ther occasions haue not attended Our said former Commissioners, nor contributed to the said worke; and with all others whose hearts GOD *shall bee pleased to moove to adde any thing to their former liberality or benevolence to the said great worke.*

Wee therefore being fully resolued to vse and continue this and all other good meanes, for the effecting of a worke so pleasing to GOD, *and honourable to Vs and Our Gouernment;*

And hauing speciall trust and confidence

confidence in your wiſedomes and diſcretions, haue appointed you and euery two or more of you, to bee Our Commiſsioners.

And by theſe preſents doe giue and grant vnto you, and to euery two or more of you, full power and authority, in ſuch and ſo many places (aſwell within Liberties as without) in our County of

ſo often as to you, or any two or more of you ſhall bee thought fit, to aſſemble and meet together, and to call before you and euery two or more of you, ſuch and

ſo

so many of Our louing Subiects, inhabiting or residing, or being Landholders in the said County, whom you shall conceiue to bee able to part with some of their substance, for the preuenting of the ruine of that goodly Church, and desire and request of them their free voluntary and liberall ayde, helpe and beneuolence towards the vndergoing of that charge, as they shall bee able to beare, vsing to them such perswasions as to your wisedomes shall bee thought expedient.

Not doubting but that all Our

louing

louing Subiects will (as in dutie they are bound) make their appearance before you, when, and where they shall be required.

And for the more certaine answering of all such summes of money as shall bee thus collected or agreed to be paid, euery two of you which shall assemble for this purpose, shall prepare a booke wherein you shall write the names of all those that shall contribute, and the summes of money which shall bee collected, together with such summes of money as they will bee

pleased afterwards to conferre on that Worke, and the times when they will make payment thereof; to which We will their names be vnder written to remaine as a Testimonie of their pious intentions.

And because it may be damage for many the meaner sort of Our people, (of whose willingnesse, to further the repaire of this house of Gods seruice We make no doubt) to be drawne from their workes and occasions, We doe hereby giue vnto you, and to euery two or more of you, power and authority, by vertue of

of this Our Commiſſion by Warrants vnder your hands and ſeales, to giue directions and authority vnto the Church-wardens in each Pariſh within Our ſaid Counties of at ſuch times as you ſhall thinke fit in the Pariſh Churches, or otherwiſe at the houſes of the Pariſhioners, to aske and receiue the beneuolence of well-diſpoſed people, which being collected, they ſhall make the ſame forthwith knowne to the Curate, or Miniſter of that place, and hee ſhall in writing keepe a double thereof,

written in the Bookes of Accompts of that Pariſh, and make Certificate to ſome of you of the ſummes receiued by them, which Wee Will they ſhall pay to your hands within a weeke after the receipt thereof.

And the ſummes of money which you ſhall receiue from each Pariſh, you ſhall write in the ſaid Booke or Bookes by you kept; Whereunto the Church-wardens making ſuch payment, ſhall put their names or markes. And within one moneth after ſuch time as any ſuch money as is afore mentioned,

oned, either from particular perſons, or from the Church-wardens of any Pariſh, ſhall be paid to your hands: you ſhall pay and deliuer the ſame into the Chamber of London, *there to be kept and preſerued, and imployed in that good Worke onely, and no other, as by Our ſaid Commiſſion, bearing Date the ſaid tenth day of April, is ordained and appointed.*

And at ſuch times as you ſhall hold conuenient, and at the furtheſt, once euery yeere you ſhall deliuer all the ſaid Bookes into the

ſaid Chamber of London, *that the money promiſed, being from time to time payed, Remembrances may be thereof kept.*

Wherefore We doe command you, and euery of you, to attend, and execute the premiſſes with diligence: And Wee doe command all whom it ſhall, or may concerne (aſwell within liberties, as without) that they, and euery of them, to you, and euery two or more of you, in execution of the premiſſes, be from time to time attendant, aiding, and aſſiſting, as they ſhall be required, in

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auoyding the perill which other wiſe may befall them. And to the intent that Our people may be the better encouraged, and their contributions the more liberall, and the worke in hand take the better effect: We doe hereby ſignifie, and declare, that of all thoſe moneys, which haue beene brought into the Chamber of Our Citie of London, for the purpoſe afore ſaid, ſo much as hath beene taken out thence, hath beene wholy imployed for the aduancement of that worke, and for no other purpoſe, and that which

remaines,

remaines, and whatsoeuer shall hereafter be brought in, shall with all care and fidelitie bee disposed to the same end onely, and none other, wherein as it was necessary in the first place, to demolish those houses, and other nusances which annoyed the Church, and hindered the worke, so that being done, Wee haue not onely commanded that the worke of reparation should begin, but haue caused an entrance to bee made into it, and are resolued constantly to follow it, vntill it bee brought to perfection.

And

And hereof We would haue you to ſatisfie all Our louing Subiects, and of the cleereneſſe of Our Royall intention herein; and that all rumors, or imaginations of diuerting the ſaid moneys to any other purpoſe, are but the fancies of men, either groſly maleuolent, or cauſeleſly iealous, and diſtruſtfull.

Laſtly, for that many of the Nobility haue already giuen a free and an honourable Contribution to this great Worke, according as they haue been moued by Letters written ſeuerally to them from the

Lords of Our Priuie Councell, or otherwiſe, and paid their money either to the Chamber of London, *or in the face of their ſeuerall Countries, for the better example to others: Our expreſſe Will and pleaſure is, That ſuch Lords as you finde haue paid, be not further mooued by you, vnleſſe they ſhall of themſelues increaſe their gift. And for the Lords the Biſhops, and the Deanes of Cathedrall Churches, they all of them haue ſubſcribed already to a yeerely payment, and in a plentifull manner, ſo that*

you

you ſhall likewiſe forbeare to demaund of them. As for all other of the Cleargie, which haue not already giuen, Wee haue thought fit to referre them by Letters to their ſeuerall Ordinaries, or their Archdeacons, of whom Wee will looke for an account; And therefore you may leaue them alſo to the Order Wee haue taken with them.

In witneſſe whereof We haue cauſed theſe Our Letters to bee made Patents. Witneſſe our ſelfe at *Weſtminſter*, the twentieth day of December, in the ninth yeere of Our Reigne.

Willys.

God ſaue the King.